

Summer 2007

THE WOLVERINE GUARD



Average day for a Michigan fighter pilot in Iraq

Fallen hero names boss a patriot

Betty Ford expresses her thanks

144th MP Company, "First in, last out"

A publication of the Michigan Army and Air National Guard
www.Michigan.gov/dmva
WolverineGuard@Michigan.gov



Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler and Gov. Jennifer Granholm award Sgt. Michelle Rudzitis and Spc. Derek Gagne, of the 46th Military Police Company, a State of Michigan Purple Heart certificate.
Photo by Howard Anthony



Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler (right) and Col. Anderson (far left) present Col. (ret) Gilbert Holmes with the adjutant general's coin. Holmes is a former Michigan National Guard ATAG and authored Michigan Selective Service's first EEO plan in 1963.
Photo by Master Sgt. Denice Rankin



Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler presents the Distinguished Service Medal to the family of Sgt. Craig Frank, a 2004 fallen Soldier from the 1775th Military Police Company, during the Pontiac Armory addition dedication on July 9, 2007.
Photo by Sgt. Gabriel Morse



*From the desk of
The Adjutant General*



TAG TALK

As you read through this issue of our Wolverine Guard, you will be reminded of just how busy we have been over the past several months. I keep thinking that our pace will slow down, but there is no sign of that happening any time soon. Today, as I write this article, we have over 1600 of our Michigan National Guard members serving somewhere outside of the United States and several more serving on the Southwest Border. We've been doing this for over four years now and our Soldiers and Airmen continue to perform magnificently.

I did have the opportunity in February, to visit our Soldiers and Airmen serving in Kuwait and Iraq. I was there for four days and managed to visit 11 different units in nine different locations. I am happy to tell you that we can all be very proud of our men and women who are serving over there. Our units were all doing very important work and they were consistently setting new, higher standards of excellence for mission accomplishment. They are doing incredibly difficult work, under extremely challenging conditions, and I could not have been more proud of them!

As we continue to aggressively support our overseas operations, we are also extremely busy dealing with the challenges we face here at home. Our Air National Guard has now begun to implement many of the changes created by the 2005 BRAC Commission. We will soon be retiring all of our C-130's and have already begun sending people to the training they will need to operate the KC-135 tanker. Those are major changes for our Airmen, but as always, they are stepping up to the challenge and will eventually perform the "tanker" mission better than anyone else in the country! This conversion is just the beginning for the Michigan Air Guard and I know we will continue to work together as one team as we take on all the challenges that BRAC has provided us.

Our Army Guard has also taken on a new challenge. We now have the responsibility to provide much of the training that previous units got after they were deployed to the mobilization site. We're delighted to have this opportunity, because it means that our Soldiers will spend less time away from home. I had the opportunity to watch our Infantry Battalion and our Cavalry Battalion during their June training period and I can tell you they were doing a great job. We've built a great training team and are excited about the overall benefits this approach offers our Soldiers and their families!

As I close, I would like to again thank you all for the tremendous sacrifices you make as you serve our country. I am humbled as I get to know so many of our Soldiers and Airmen who have been wounded in the service of their country. We have had about 75 Michigan National Guard men and women wounded thus far, and each one of them is a true American Hero. I am also humbled when I think of the families who have had a loved one make the ultimate sacrifice. Since the last edition of our Wolverine Guard, we have lost two more outstanding young Soldiers. We were deeply saddened by the loss of Sgt. Thomas Wright (46th MP Co) and Sgt. Matthew Soper (1461st Tran Co). Your support and prayers for their families has been so tremendously important and appreciated. I know they are deeply grateful, as I am, for all your kindness and thoughtfulness. Thanks again for what each of you do for the Guard Family.

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler

ATAG TALK

From the desk of
The Assistant Adjutant General-Army

I am very appreciative and humbled to write my first "Wolverine Guard" article as the ATAG for the Michigan Army National Guard. Since October 1, 2006 my life has been exciting, challenging, busy, full of new experiences, focused on the mission and personally gratifying.

I am not new to the Army Guard. I have served more than 35 years and have been privileged to serve with thousands of dedicated men and women who choose to wear the uniform and accept the responsibility and challenges of being a "Citizen Soldier." I am proud of my service and honored to serve with you who.

Thirty-five years ago, I swore in as a private and served as an enlisted Soldier for seven and a half years. As a specialist six (E6) I became an officer candidate at the Federal Officer Candidate School, Fort Benning, Ga. I was commissioned a second lieutenant in October 1979. Most of my service has been as an engineer officer. I was fortunate to command the 1435th Engineer Truck Co, 507th Engineer Battalion, the Engineer Brigade 38th Infantry Division and the 63rd Troop Command. I was selected from traditional or M-day status to become the full time Chief of Staff March 1, 2004, at which time I retired from Michigan public schools with more than 32 years as a teacher and administrator. Following Brig. Gen. Robert Taylor's retirement in the fall of 2006, I became the ATAG-Army October 1, 2006.

Needless to say, the Guard I joined in 1972 is not the Guard we serve in today. We have transitioned from a strategic reserve to a fully integrated operational force. We have deployed more than 80 percent of our Soldiers and have inactivated units and closed armories while activating new units and opening newly constructed armories. We have changed the focus of our training from collective to a pre-deployment theater immersion Soldier focused. We have gone from the F1 fatigue to woodland camo BDUs to digitized ACUs and Velcro! And then there is the beret.

Through it all we have continued to grow in numbers. We are doing a very good job recruiting Soldiers into our

ranks. Keep up the good job and if you are not signed up for GRAP, talk to your retention NCO. At the time I am writing this article, our strength is nearly 9300 Soldiers. We are also retaining Soldiers at a rate that is acceptable, however keeping Soldiers in our ranks needs constant vigilance and your help. I wrote a letter to our Soldiers in May explaining the new deployment policy that allows a 36 month "dwell time" before Soldiers would be involuntarily deployed again. It is my hope that this policy will be the bridging strategy that will get us to the one in five year cycle that the ARFOGEN model is built upon.

Some things just don't change. The warrior spirit and professional Soldier ethos remains steadfast and unwavering. I want to give credit to the heroes in our ranks that have deployed, are deployed, are preparing to deploy, have sustained injury or paid the ultimate sacrifice. I have had the privilege to meet many of those Soldiers and their families. I can say without hesitation they are all proud, patriotic men and women who represent the fabric our great nation is built upon.

Our future is bright. There will still be change to contend with and I know for some that is troubling. I have learned that there are some things in life you cannot control so the best thing to do is learn to live with it. On the other hand, there are things within life that we can shape and control. Those are the things we need to focus on, communicate with each other about and make decisions that are mission oriented and best for the MIARNG. I pledge to you that I come to work each day to do just that. But I need to hear from you; so, I have set-up a special email address for this communication process: ATAGMI@ng.army.mil. Send me your ideas and your concerns and together we will take care of our National Guard family.

It is a privilege to lead you and an honor to serve with you. Thank you for being who you are and serving like you do.

James R. Anderson
Col. James Anderson



Col. James Anderson proudly shakes hands with Michigan recruiters during the Annual Recruiting and Retention Banquet.

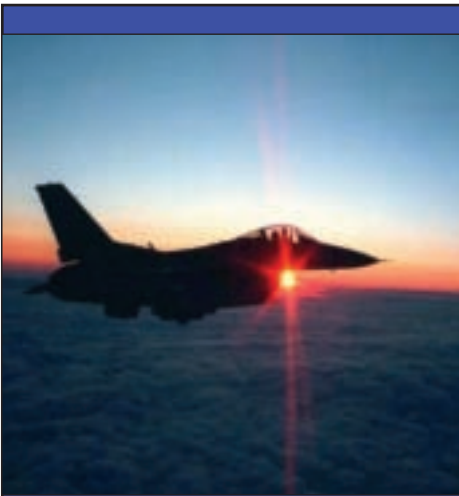
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class James Downen

"The warrior spirit and professional Soldier ethos remains steadfast and unwavering. I want to give credit to the heroes in our ranks that have deployed, are deployed, are preparing to deploy, have sustained injury or paid the ultimate sacrifice."
Col. James Anderson



Col. James Anderson presents the state flag to Joint Forces Headquarters Embedded Training Team members during their farewell ceremony.

Photo by Sgt. Gabriel Morse



Cover: This in-flight photo was taken of an F-16 just as the sun was beginning to rise in the Iraqi desert. Read this story, *Average day for a Michigan fighter pilot in Iraq*, on pages 16 and 17.

Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Mike Greiger

Commander in Chief

Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler

Assistant Adjutant General, Army

Col. James R. Anderson

Assistant Adjutant General, Air

Brig. Gen. Richard G. Elliott

Assistant Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs

Brig. Gen. Carol Ann Fausone

Assistant Adjutant General for Homeland Security

Col. Michael McDaniel

State Senior Enlisted Advisor

Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth L. Slee

State Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Dawn Dancer

Editor *The Wolverine Guard*

Spc. LaKeshia Tryon

Co-Editor

Master Sgt. Denice Rankin

The Wolverine Guard is an unofficial publication authorized under the provision of AR 360-1. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the Department of the Air Force. It is published quarterly by the Michigan National Guard Joint Force Headquarters Public Affairs Office with a press run of 17,500.

Readers are encouraged to submit comments, articles, and information for publication to:

The Wolverine Guard

3411 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Lansing, Michigan 48906

E-mail us at

WolverineGuard@Michigan.gov

Free T'ai Chi Classes for Soldiers

Sifu Greg Knollmeyer, the director of the Spiral Chi Center is now holding T'ai Chi classes in Ypsilanti. The center will be holding free T'ai Chi classes specifically for recently returning soldiers Thursday afternoons at 4:30 p.m.. Classes began June 21 and there is no charge, however, soldiers must register in order to keep class sizes controlled.

Classes will be held at the Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron Street. To register for the free class and to learn more information, call (734)678-9508 or visit www.SpiralChiCenter.com.



Law school offers veterans free help

The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law is the first law school in the state to offer free legal assistance to veterans across Michigan.

Veterans can sign up now. The lawyers will not require veterans to come to them. Instead, lawyers will hit the road in a RV office-on-the-go as early as this fall.

To sign up or for more information, contact UDM School of Law at (313)596-0262. To donate to the law school's veteran's clinic, call (313)596-0274. Attorneys can volunteer their time by calling (313)596-0256.



TSU Freedom Scholarship Program

Tri-State University in Angola, Ind. has established a Freedom Scholarship program for children of U.S. military personnel killed in the Global War on Terrorism.

The scholarship provides \$15,000 per year for four years of school. Additional information is available from TSU by calling the admissions office at (800)347-4878 or by visiting www.tristate.edu.



American Red Cross warns of scam

The American Red Cross is warning military spouses about a new identity-theft scam targeting family

members of deployed troops.

ARC representatives typically do not contact military members or dependents directly and almost always go through a commander or first sergeant.

Military family members are urged to not give out any personal information over the phone if contacted by unknown individuals, including confirmation their spouse is deployed.

It is a federal crime for a person to fraudulently pretend to be a member/agent for the American Red Cross for the purpose of soliciting money or material. Any military family member receiving such a call is urged to report it to their local Family Readiness Group or Military Personnel Flight.



2007 Marksmanship Competitions

For the second consecutive year the 127th Security Forces Squadron from Selfridge Air National Guard Base dominated the annual Governor's Twenty Pistol Match during the April 21 competition at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena.

Senior Master Sgt Michael Suwinski, superintendent of 127th SFS, was the top gun among a field of 57 competitors who came from Army and Air Guard units across the state.

Several other marksmanship competitions are already on the schedule for the remainder of 2007:

All Guard Sniper Tryout and MAC IV Regional, Fort Custer, Michigan- July 11-16

Regional Pistol, Camp Sherman, Ohio- Sept. 11-16

Regional Machine Gun, Fort Custer, Michigan- Sept. 29-30

National Winston P. Wilson Competition, Arkansas- October

Unofficial information on these events is available at www.michiganguardshooters.org. Official information will be disseminated through official channels.

Guardsmen in good standing may compete at state and regional events if they meet match eligibility requirements and must also have their commander's consent.

CCMS

From the desk of
The Command Chief Master Sergeant

TALK

On Memorial Day, I had the opportunity to be the keynote speaker for my local community. It was a beautiful bright sunny day, just right for a parade and a ceremony to commemorate those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

After a parade of fire engines, classic and antique cars, the high school band, Boy Scouts, and members of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, it was time for the ceremony. As I stood near the podium and waited my turn to speak, I thought how lucky we are to have the freedom in this county to have an event like this without interference from our government. But I wondered how many young men and women are not here today because of their sacrifice for the rest of us?

As I looked over the crowd of about 800 men, women and children, I stood tall in my Air Force service dress uniform knowing that I was not only representing the Air Force, but all branches of service. The words flowed easily as I went through my prepared statement, making eye contact with veterans in the crowd and emphasizing my key points. After I concluded my speech, we recited the Pledge of Allegiance and listened to the sound of the lone bugler playing taps. The mood was somber.

Now that the parade was over and my speech was complete, all that was left was the long walk back to my car. As I walked down the sidewalk next to a busy street, folks honked their horns and waved while at the same time saying thank you. Thanking me for taking the time to speak to them and for my service.

As I neared my car, I came upon an older gentleman walking along the sidewalk. I recognized him as a local business owner, and I had been in his shop many times over the years. I

noticed that on the World War II hat he was wearing there was a miniature Purple Heart hat pin. Even though I had known this man for more than 20 years, I never knew he had been in the Army.

He told me he had been in Germany during the war and was wounded three times. The first two were rifle wounds to the leg and upper body, but the last one he said "almost got me." The third Purple Heart was awarded after a machine gun bullet pierced his left side, just missed his spine. He said that he didn't like to talk about it and that he was just doing his job at the time so we left it at that.

How many other veterans feel the same way – that they were just doing their job? We talk about the "Greatest to our winning that war, but what about the current generation of service members? In my opinion, they are just as brave and dedicated as those who are part of the "Greatest Generation."

Recently, while attending the National Guard Association of Michigan Conference at Mackinaw Island, I had the opportunity to meet several recent Purple Heart recipients. They, like those of the greatest generation, were honored for their courage and great sacrifice. They left their families and traveled to foreign lands to fight for the cause of freedom. They gave up a certain future for an uncertain one. They showed the same dedication and patriotism that every generation of Americans have shown when called upon to serve this great country. They too, feel that they were just doing their jobs. We owe them our thanks and much, much more.

Michael R. Dalton

Michael R Dalton



Chief Master Sgt. Michael R. Dalton is the Command Chief Master Sgt. for the Michigan Air National Guard. He advises the Assistant Adjutant General for Air and the staff on matters of health, welfare and morale of enlisted personnel assigned to the MIANG.

"As I looked over the crowd of about 800 men, women and children, I stood tall in my Air Force service dress uniform knowing that I was not only representing the Air Force, but all branches of service."

**Command Chief
Master Sgt. Michael
Dalton**

Tough Duty for Chaplains

By Chaplain (Col.) Herbert Heavner

Life as a National Guard chaplain is filled with a variety of duties that are too numerous to define or place on a written list. We attend drill, we participate in Annual Training and we are part of the staff. We do our best to be around Soldiers whenever and wherever training is taking place. We provide Soldiers and family members with a friendly ear whenever they need someone to listen. We pray for Soldiers. We are joyful with Soldiers when they are excited by special events in life. We become tearful when Soldiers and families are forced to face the reality of one of our heroes who has paid the ultimate sacrifice in the fight against global terrorism. This is our toughest duty. It involves three activities: the death notification process, the honorable transfer of the Soldier from theater to home, and if asked, the funeral itself.

The first responsibility of the chaplain when notifying a family member of a death begins with a phone call requesting chaplain support for the Death Notification Officer. This involves meeting with and accompanying the notifying officer or NCO to the home of the Soldier's family. If the Soldier is married, primary notification is made to the spouse first and then the parents. If single or divorced, notification is made to the parents. Children are an important part of this process as well. The chaplain does not make the actual notification—that is the responsibility of the notifying officer or NCO. We are present to provide support and comfort to the family (and to the notifying official). We try to lead them through the first moments after receiving this devastating news. It is not unusual for us to help the family contact other relatives, friends or

clergy. When appropriate we offer prayer that the Almighty will provide His comfort and strength during the difficult days that lie ahead. This job is toilsome for the chaplain and for all those involved.

The second task of supporting families at such a time takes place a week or so later. It is called an "Honorable Transfer," a very solemn ceremony conducted at the most convenient airfield near to where funeral arrangements have been made. The special honor guard and chaplain are there to honor and welcome home the Soldier's body. The chaplain often offers a special prayer for God's strength to be with the family. After this brief flight line ceremony, the body is transported to the funeral home where the family may have an opportunity to privately welcome home their fallen hero. This is not the type of welcome home celebration the family or any of us would have desired; nevertheless it is a celebration of the proud service the Soldier rendered to our great nation. This too is a demanding duty.

Finally, the chaplain may be involved in the funeral itself. The chaplain may lead the service or may only support the family's pastor, priest or rabbi. The funeral is the place where we honor the Soldier for his or her proud service to our nation, where we celebrate their life, and where we say goodbye. Their breathing may have stopped but their memory lives on forever. It is a tough duty for the family and for the chaplain—but we are honored to serve! May God continue to honor the memory of our fallen heroes and may He continue to bless their families.



Chaplain (Col.) Heavner prays with family members of Spc. Wilson A. Algrim during Algrim's honorable transfer in Howell, Mich. Photo courtesy of Chaplain Heavner

Betty Ford expresses her thanks to the Michigan Guard

Mrs. Gerald R. Ford

March 13, 2007

To The Men and Women Of The Michigan National Guard,

Bringing President Ford home for the last time was the culmination of an incredible period of farewells and celebrations of a life well lived. The Ford family had been honored by the tributes and huge crowds in California and Washington, but our reception in Grand Rapids was more than anything we possibly could have imagined. Words cannot adequately convey how much it meant to my family and me to have the Michigan National Guard assisting us throughout the services and ceremonies in Grand Rapids.

President Ford's respect for each of you and for your colleagues in uniform was beyond description. Several weeks before his death, in a letter to a friend he wrote:

"In my life, I've received countless honors. But none was greater than the opportunity to wear the uniform of Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. On an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific during World War II, I learned to respect, and to rely on, my comrades as if my life depended on them - because it often did. As a World War II veteran, I yield to no one in my admiration for the heroes of Omaha Beach and Iwo Jima. At the same time, I take enormous inspiration from their grandsons and granddaughters who are writing new chapters of heroism around the globe."

Thus, my gratitude to you is especially heartfelt because President Ford would have been so proud knowing that the men and women of the Michigan National Guard were assisting our family during his last journey home.

For your selfless dedication to make President Ford's final return to Michigan special and, most importantly, for your bravery, patriotism, and extraordinary service to the people of Michigan and to our Nation, you have my deepest thanks and unending appreciation.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

With my warmest, best wishes,

Betty Ford

Michigan National Guard
Attention: Major General Thomas G. Cutler
3411 North Martin Luther King Boulevard
Lansing, Michigan 48906

With the passing of former President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford, more than 600 Michigan National Guard members supported his funeral in various roles. The MING put into play a plan that had been in the works for more than 20 years. This plan was carefully developed based on the wishes of President Ford and his family. For the first time in its history, the National Guard performed the military support role for a state funeral. Previously, active duty personnel fulfilled the mission.

Family Programs Team provides golden quality in 2006

By Spc. LaKeshia Tryon



Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler poses with Donna Geer, Sandy Mahoney, Sandy Wojick and Lt. Col. Mary Jones, all members of the Family Programs team, after presenting them with the gold 2006 TAG Quality Cup. Photo by Staff Sgt. Helen Miller

The Adjutant General's Quality Gold Cup was presented to the Michigan National Guard Family Programs team on March 17, 2007.

"We have an opportunity to recognize a team that has made significant contributions to this organization through one of their process improvement initiatives," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, the adjutant general.

The TAG Quality Cup Award was first established in 1998 to formally recognize team efforts which improve the quality of services provided by the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs.

There were 25 "Outstanding team process improvement" nominations for this year's Quality Cup Award that warranted a triple level review process conducted by the chiefs of staffs, the ATAGs and TAG.

Ten nominations received honorable mention, seven were awarded the bronze cup and seven more accepted the

silver cup.

The Family Programs team's implementation of an effective statewide communications system lead them to the gold. The system demonstrates four key elements:

1. Improves the organizations responsiveness to family inquiries.
2. Fully documents family contacts to develop improved services and training.
3. Ensures family members of deployed soldiers have consistent monthly contact with family assistance centers.
4. Develops "tool box" training packages for volunteers and youth.

"We are so proud of the work and dedication of this team and all their volunteers that make the program a success in minimizing some of the effects preparing for and deploying has on families," said Maj. Gen. Cutler.

MIARNG receives Honorable Mention in ACOE

The Michigan Army National Guard placed 11th and received Honorable Mention in the Army's Communities of Excellence for fiscal year 2006 program for Reserve Components. In FY-05 the MIARNG placed 15th overall.

The ACOE program helps improve organizational performance practices, capabilities, and results; facilitates communication and sharing of best practices; and serves as a working tool for understanding and managing performance and for guiding organizational sustainability.

Conducting a real world mission that makes a difference: Michigan Army National Guard plays role in Operation JumpStart

By Spc. LaKeshia Tryon

Members of the Michigan Army National Guard are conducting a real world mission called Task Force Tucson at the Naco Border Patrol Station in Arizona. This ongoing mission began in 2006 as a 30-90 day duration deployment in support of Operation Jumpstart.

Currently, 31 soldiers from the 144th Military Police Company out of Owosso, Mich. are serving a three week Annual Training duration at the Naco BP. Their objective is to eliminate illegal traffic coming across the international border between the United States and Mexico.

In just two weeks, while operating only two points, the soldiers assisted with 462 apprehensions. According to their after action review, "that is an amazing accomplishment for only having 31 soldiers to work with."

In the AAR they also stated the mission could be improved by conducting it for a minimal three-month period. After completing the required training, learning the terrain and operating systems involved in conducting this mission, it would already be time for the duration to end.

The next scheduled duration began June 30.



This sign is posted as a border marker where the gate between the U.S. and Mexico is being reconstructed during Operation JumpStart. Photo courtesy of Capt. Allison Stein



(From left to right) Spc. Jason Partaka, Sgt. David White, Spc. Walter Nichols, 1st Lt. David Skurda, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Norris, Pvt. 2 Andrew Prater and Pfc. Kera Clemons are seven of 31 soldiers deployed from the 144th Military Police Company in Owosso, Mich. pictured here alongside Assistant Adjutant General Col. Anderson, (far right) in Army Combat Uniform. Also pictured in the all-green uniforms are the border patrol agents who served as hosts to these soldiers during the operation at their station. Photo courtesy of Capt. Allison Stein

110th Civil Engineers break records in support of OJS

Story and photos by Lt. Col. Fred Vollmerhausen

Thirty-nine members of the Michigan Air National Guard's 110th Civil Engineer Squadron joined personnel from the 107th and 141st CES and 40 members of the Wisconsin Army National Guard to complete a long-term project installing a primary, secondary and third fence at the U.S and Mexican border. Teams had to install several

prepared orders, and brought all deploying members up to date on shots, security clearances, etc. In the end it all came together deploying several groups to Yuma, Arizona between Jan. 2 and Jan. 7.

Many members of the 110th made a name for themselves during the deployment, both as team members and on their own.

The first group from the 110th to distinguish themselves was the concrete crew. A normal concrete pour is approximately 90 cubic yards. However, the pour on Jan. 24 was 145 cubic yards, the largest in the history of the wall project. This record was followed by a record concrete form install the next day with a crew led by Master Sgt. Mike Lowery and featured members from the 110th, the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center and the Wisconsin Army Guard.

Not to be outdone, the support skeleton crew under the supervision of Tech. Sgt. John Watson followed up on Jan. 26 with a record installation of 35 skeletons. The following week

both the horizontal panel crew, under Senior Master Sgt. John Yuhas and the vertical panel crew, under Master Sgt. Eric Weeber, set records of their own.



Once on the ground, Michigan Air National Guard 110th Civil Engineer Squadron immediately began constructing the fence.

layers of fencing and security lighting in a high traffic area east of San Luis, Arizona.

Command staff and long-term Jumpstart personnel efforts led to a smooth start-up with members from all units blending together on jobs to form one team. Crews started right in welding the support skeletons, vertical and horizontal panels on the installed support skeletons, and installing concrete forms and completing support skeletons.

In the first week, there were at least seven welding crews working at one time and the fence was going up much faster than anticipated by the permanent party and border patrol representatives.

All units involved were informed late 2006 and attended a meeting in Arizona to discuss details of the job. They had an opportunity to tour the job site and see first-hand what was to be done. Most that attended were excited by the project and signed up for the typical two-week deployment expected by an Air Guardsman.

The representatives of the 110th felt more could be done if additional time was allowed and signed up for 30 days. Some members would deploy for the duration, some for the first two weeks and some for the second.

December was extremely busy for full time members of the 110th as they made housing and travel arrangements,



The 39 member team of Michigan Air Guard's 110th Civil Engineer Squadron pose in front of the completed fence at the border in San Luis, Ariz.

144th Military Police Company, first in, last out

By Staff Sgt. Samantha M. Stryker

When Soldiers conduct missions in the Nineveh Province capital city of Mosul, they could be called on at any time to assist other coalition forces.

That sort of fluidity is what makes members of the 144th Military Police Company successful. “First in, last out” is not only their motto-- it’s the way these Michigan National Guard Soldiers do business.

“In the city, we are the Quick Reaction Force because we are already out there and we are trained to respond quickly to just about anything,” said Sgt. Brian Ohler, tactical operations leader for the patrol.

Members of the unit proved their flexibility during a recent mission by transforming from Iraq security advisors and health services inspectors to a rapid reaction force for friendly forces.

After soldiers of 2nd platoon met with coalition members at the Iraqi Police Province Headquarters, they paid a visit to the Al Jamouri Hospital and adjoining police station to speak with officials at both locations to address fuel and food issues

Mission coordinator Sgt. Robert Kay, 3rd squad leader, spoke with the Al Jamouri police station commander about plans to move the police to a facility with sleeping quarters and a larger guard tower.

Afterward, the team made their way to the hospital’s morgue to talk with staff about its record-keeping procedures.

Satisfied with the information collected, the Soldiers began heading back toward Forward Operating Base Marez. The day’s mission was complete.

As fast as a Texas thunderstorm, the unit became the district’s Quick Reaction Force when a call came over the radio reporting a roadside bomb had struck a U.S. vehicle.

As Ohler gathered more information, the convoy raced toward the incident with sirens blaring, which drew curious looks from pedestrians and parted traffic on the roads.

As the squad weaved through the busy market street, gunner Pvt. Nathanael Hunt called out to Kay that he’d

spotted a column of black smoke rising from another direction. Before they could determine the cause of the smoke, however, they had to answer the call for help made by their fellow Soldiers.

When the squads arrived on site, the Soldiers involved in the incident had already been treated and the vehicle was still mobile, but they needed the MPs as an escort and to provide extra security.

As the convoy slowly made its way toward base, Hunt called out again to Kay that the column of black smoke was still visible.

Kay called the tactical operations center for more information. He learned that an Iraqi Army patrol had been struck by a car bomb in an unrelated incident. Kay was asked if his patrol could assist.

After being assured their assistance was no longer needed with the current assignment, the MPs peeled away from the American convoy and raced toward the dark



Sgt. Brian Ohler (left) and Robert Kay of the 144th Military Police Company enter the forensic lab at the Al Jamouri Hospital during a visit to the facility and the neighboring police station in Mosul.

plum of smoke.

From his vantage point in the gunner’s turret, Hunt guided the squad through a congested maze of city streets, around a traffic circle and arrived at the charred remains of an Iraqi Army truck.

The U.S. troops provided extra security around the perimeter, which allowed the IA to work without fear of another attack.

“They did not call for any help, we came to set up security for them,” said Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Garcia, the platoon sergeant for 2nd platoon. “These guys had it all under control by the time we got there.”

As the Iraqi policemen drove off, Ohler made a radio call. “Any other fires?” he asked the tactical operations center. Hunt shouted that there was plenty of daylight left.

After a short pause, the crackle over radio ordered the members of 2nd platoon to return to base.

Story and photo courtesy of DVIDS, www.dvidshub.net

Iraqi Police acquire skills that benefit community policing

Story and photo by 1st Lt. AJ Spina



Members of the 46th Military Police Company and the Iraqi Police stop to interview an individual about possible insurgent activity in New Baghdad, Iraq.

It is no secret that in order for the United States efforts in Iraq to be a lasting success, a functional independent government must be established and maintained. To exist, this government must be able to enforce the laws it creates, protect the welfare of its constituents and represent principles agreed upon by the vast majority of the nation.

Without the ability to uphold its domestic policies, the Iraqi government, like any other, will fail. Since its rebirth as an independent democratic state, the Iraqi government has turned to the same organization that so effectively maintained the power of the previous totalitarian regime--the Iraqi Police.

The IP force has struggled to find its identity within the fledgling democracy of Iraq. Typically under-trained, uneducated and a target for insurgents, the average IP faces obstacles in the line of duty that are difficult to fathom.

It is into this context that units like the 46th Military Police Company find their mission and purpose for serving in Iraq. Embarking on one of the most challenging and precarious missions in theater, the 46th trains, mentors and evaluates the progress of IP stations and their officers.

The 46th supports IPs in this challenging environment by sending Police Transition Teams to the police stations within the district. The scope of PTT responsibilities at the stations is broad, ranging from supplying the station with logistical and administrative resources, to training IPs on individual policing and survival skills and also patrolling with them through the streets of Baghdad.

Each PTT has a chief who meets with the station commander to discuss developments that occurred within

the station's jurisdiction, plan joint missions and design training programs.

Other members of the PTT specialize in specific areas such as organizing the arms room, teaching classes on policing tactics and skills, checking on detainees in the jail and assisting with the security of the station.

The 46th also simultaneously introduced a new and aggressive strategy to prepare IPs to eventually take complete responsibility for the security of New Baghdad.

With the underlying belief that the only way IPs will ever be able to operate independently of American support is by gaining the trust and confidence of the Iraqi people, the 46th instituted many principles of community policing into their training curriculum.

When juxtaposed with standards of community policing in America, the practice looks unrefined and vague in Iraq. However, several of the general concepts of the philosophy remain intact.

In short, the 46th believes that IPs must be portrayed positively to the public. This occurs through the professionalism IPs are trained to demonstrate while on duty and the publication of their successes in newspapers, on billboards and in commercials.

Furthermore, IPs must interact with the citizens of New Baghdad to build bridges so that a productive relationship of interdependence is established. IPs depend on the local population for intelligence on crime and insurgent activity and the local population depends on IPs to support and defend the laws of a democratic Iraq to ensure their safety and welfare.

(Continued on page 13)

Keeping it in the Family: Mom/Son Enlistment is a first for RSB

Story and photo by Maj. Sandi VanWormer

When Alexander Prichard, 18, decided to join the Michigan National Guard, he had a lot of support from his family. His grandfather was a paratrooper in World War II; his an aunt and uncle are both currently members of the Michigan Air National Guard; and he had a friend that was joining the Michigan Army National Guard with him. It is the friend joining him that makes Alex Prichard unique. That friend is also his mother.

At 36 years old, Mary Prichard decided to join the MIARNG with her son. While their paths separated in April when Alex shipped to Basic Combat Training, they became the first mother and son duo to train as members of the Michigan Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Battalion.

The MIARNG RSB was established in 2004, pursuant to the Recruit Sustainment Program developed by the National Guard Bureau. The program was designed as a means to engage recruits prior to leaving for BCT.

Both Mary and Alex were assigned to Company B, Recruit Sustainment Battalion, at Camp Grayling.

Typically, drill at RSB starts early in the morning with physical training.

"It was tough at first," recalled Mary, whose only physical activity before that point involved chasing after the three nieces that she cared for during the day. But she found she actually enjoyed it. "I felt good afterwards, like I had accomplished something."

Both Mary and Alex joined the National Guard because of the educational benefits, but both acknowledge the sense of doing something beyond what most people will accomplish in their lifetime.

"Even in high school, I wanted to join the military," recalled Mary. "But other things always seemed to come up and the timing was never right. When Alex turned 18, I kept pushing him to join. I didn't want the moment to pass for him, too."

Alex laughs at the recollection of his mother encouraging him to join the National Guard. "She was relentless," joked Alex. "Finally, I said to her 'I will when you do.'" So she did. True to his word, Alex enlisted, too. What he did not tell his mother at the time was that he had already made the decision to enlist, regardless if she did.

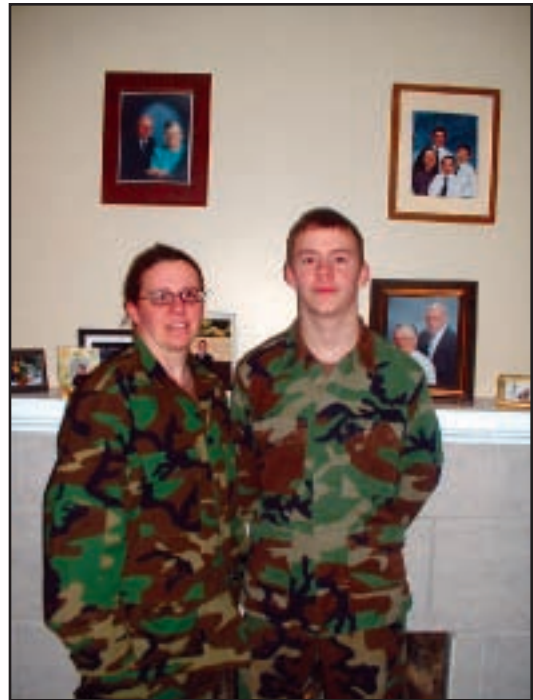
Alex began drilling at RSB first. He was nervous that first weekend because he did not know what to expect. But after the first day, he felt comfortable.

The following drill weekend, Mary joined him at RSB. "She was more nervous than I was," said Alex.

Mary acknowledged that as fact "Given my age," she said, "I was a little nervous about what to expect."

While Mary and Alex tried not to draw attention to their circumstances, word spread they were mother and son.

"Most people were okay with it," recalled Alex, who was very comfortable with the idea. "It gave me someone to talk to," he said. Mary agreed. "It was nice to have someone there who already knew me."



Alex Prichard and his mother, Mary, as they prepare to go to training at Camp Grayling.

Even though they only had a couple of drills together at RSB, both Mary and Alex are grateful for the opportunity to serve together. "It is a unique experience," said Mary.

Iraqi Police continued

Community policing is more than an unpretentious hearts and minds tactic. The PTT is not simply trying to form short term impressions on the Iraqi people, but instead create a precedent for IPs performing constructive deeds and accomplishing their duties as part of a greater joint venture for their community rather than enforcing laws through fear and intimidation.

The long term goal is that the Iraqi people will feel confident in approaching police officers with their concerns and problems knowing that every effort will be made to find a solution. Only when this is achieved will the IP be able to accomplish their mission.

The 46th and other units like it share many of the dangers encountered by the IP as they work side-by-side to meet the objectives of their collective mission.

Despite the risks involved, Soldiers of the 46th understand their efforts will help determine when Iraq is able to take on the challenges of democracy on its own.

Former MI ATAG authored first Selective Service EEO plan

By Master Sgt. Denice Rankin

While returning the ID card of his beloved wife of 67 years, former assistant adjutant general for Michigan Army National Guard, Col. Gilbert G. Holmes, visited with Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, the current adjutant general of Michigan. Holmes took some time to reflect on his military career.

Holmes, a career soldier, served in the military just shy of 40 years. He enlisted in the MIARNG and began working in the adjutant general's office in July 1935 as an administrative assistant.

He attended the first Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1941. He noted that Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the Army, was the main speaker at the graduation ceremony.

During a three-year tour in the Southwest Pacific, he earned a Bronze Star Medal, a Combat Infantry Badge, and many other awards. Holmes returned home and began serving in the first formation of the Michigan State Troops. He was on an infantry committee with the purpose to reorganize the Guard.

He became the commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment in the early 1950s. In May 1954, Holmes was selected as assistant adjutant general for Army.

In May 1966, Holmes was recalled to active duty in

support of the Vietnam War. He was assigned as chief, training specialist, safety officer, equal employment opportunity counselor, and military adjutant to Michigan's Selective Service System.

While John F. Kennedy was President, he mandated that each federal agency create an Equal Employment Opportunity plan to fit the circumstances within the state. The national director of Selective Service, Lt. Gen Lewis B. Hershey, assigned Holmes the duty of writing the plan, (later renamed the Affirmative Action Plan).

Holmes' administration abilities, dating back to his first military assignment in 1935, served him well. The plan he wrote for Michigan Selective Service earned Michigan the first place national award for three consecutive years. Each year, the state was awarded a pure silver platter in recognition of the accomplishment.

The drafting of young men ceased in 1973, and his last assignment before retirement was the closure of all 83 local draft boards in Michigan.

After his military retirement, Holmes received and associate's degree from Lansing Community College and later earned a bachelor's degree in Management from Northwood Institute.



Col. Gilbert Holmes, commander of Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, Michigan National Guard (second row, eighth from left) poses with the detachment at Camp Grayling Annual Training. Holmes later became the assistant adjutant general for Army and then authored the Equal Opportunity Employment plan for Michigan Selective Service, winning first place national recognition. Photo courtesy of Col. Holmes

Fallen hero proclaims boss a patriot

By Spc. Lakeshia Tryon

In July 2006, Spc. Brandon Stout nominated his boss, Shawn Caughey, for the “My Boss is a Patriot” award sponsored by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. Caughey won the award, however, he will never have the opportunity to thank Stout in person.

Stout, 23, was a member of the Michigan Army National Guard called to active-duty last July to serve in Iraq with the 46th Military Police Company. Less than a year into the deployment on, Jan. 20, 2007, the Kent City, Mich. native was killed in action.

Stout worked as a Transportation Security Administration screener at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids. Caughey, 37, was Stout’s supervisor.

Before Stout’s departure, Caughey gave him time off to be with his family and have his wisdom teeth removed. In addition, Caughey kept Stout on track for TSA promotions.

On Apr. 24, 2007, Stout’s widow, Audrey, presented the award to Caughey during a ceremony at GRF International Airport. He remarked that he was “humbled” by the award and that Audrey should be receiving all the recognition.

Caughey said he felt underserving of the award.



Transportation Security Administration staff at Gerald R. Ford International Airport dedicated a plaque in memory of Spc. Brandon Stout, killed in action on Jan. 20, 2007.

Photo courtesy of Laura Uselding

NGAM honors MI National Guard Purple Heart recipients

By Col. (Ret) William R. Ewald



The National Guard Association of Michigan honored 26 Purple Heart recipients during its 51st annual Conference. Photo by Howard Anthony

The National Guard Association of Michigan honored 26 Purple Heart recipients during its 51st annual Conference on June 9, 2007 at the Grand Hotel on Mackinaw Island.

These combat veterans from Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom were honored in a special ceremony and

was presented with a NGAM certificate of commendation and a free weekend at the Grand Hotel courtesy of its owner, Dan Musser.

The ceremony was highlighted by remarks from two honorees, Sgt. Michelle Rudzitis and Sgt. Doug Szczepanski. They spoke movingly about their experiences and what it means to them. Rudzitis’s concluded by reminding everyone, “freedom is not free.”

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler spoke about meeting these special veterans during his visits to Walter Reed and Brook Army Hospitals. Gov. Jennifer Granholm spoke directly to the veterans and their loved ones, stating that they were the role models she wanted for her own children. She thanked them for their service to the nation and the state and for their sacrifices. The ceremony concluded in a standing ovation for these Michigan heroes.

Currently Deployed

46th Military Police Company
HHD, 107th Combat Support Battalion
Company E, 1st Battalion, 125th Infantry Regiment
144th Military Police Company
146th Medical Evacuation
Company A, 182nd Field Artillery
363rd Personnel Service Detachment
1171st Area Medical Command
1461st Transportation Company
Joint Force Headquarters
HHD, 177th Military Police Brigade
Joint Force Headquarters
ETT Joint Force Headquarters
110th Fighter Wing
127th Wing

Iraq
Kuwait
Iraq
Iraq
Iraq
Iraq
Kuwait
Iraq
Iraq
Operation Jump Start
Iraq
Kosovo
Afghanistan
Iraq, Georgia, United Arab Emirates
Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Op Jump Start

Average day for a Michigan fighter pilot in Iraq

By Lt. Col. Mike "Tiger" Greiger

The alarm clock goes off at 0030 (yes, that's 12:30 am). You quietly put on your clothes and take your weapon (9mm Beretta Model 92), being quiet so you don't wake your roommate. Each pilot is assigned a bed in a 10x10 trailer--three rooms per trailer; the kind like a mobile office at a construction site. No complaints, as each trailer has five feet of stacked sandbags surrounding it. About 12 of these trailers make up a pod, which is placed behind 12 inch thick concrete blast walls that are about 10 feet high. These would be the only mobile homes to survive a Category V hurricane!

You walk out of your hooch, dodging the mud puddles to the "Cadillac." A Cadillac is a trailer with running water and a hot shower! The "Cadillac" next door has the toilets. No sandbags, but blast walls surround it. Take your combat shower by wetting, turning off water, lathering, turning on water, rinsing, and stepping out. Dry off and get dressed.

Wearing Individual Body Armor, jacket, weapon and a reflective belt, you walk to the outside of your compound through the fence and check point. You carry your helmet.

The reflective belt is worn to avoid being hit by a truck when it's dark outside. Find your truck.

You drive through another check point and the 20-



An American fighter pilot prepares to head out for a mission.
Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Mike Greiger

year-old checks your security badge. He wishes you "a great flight" and smiles when he opens the gate. You enter the squadron with your wingman and receive intelligence and Army ground liaison briefings. Next, you sign for your blood chits and review and initial your evasion plan, "just in case."

You go over all the details of the flight and discuss how you will support the guys on the ground and address "what-

if" scenarios. It's good to fly with the same squadron mate because you learn each others' habits and can anticipate each others' actions when you have only fractions of seconds to make decisions.

You complete your briefing and step to the last support trailer to get all of your equipment on: G-suit, helmet, night vision goggles, parachute harness, survival vest and weapon. Everything weighs about 35 pounds. You take a water bottle and hard candy to keep your mouth from



Lt. Col. Mike "Tiger" Greiger walks outside the compound.

Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Mike Greiger

drying out. You step into a small room, about 3x3, that is completely black inside to adjust your night vision goggles.

Next, you get a ride to your Hardened Aircraft Shelter and then perform a walk around inspection of your jet. You check to make sure everything has been inspected and working properly. You start-up, perform numerous system checks and load your mission data into the avionics and onboard computers.

After taxiing to the arming area, ground crews recheck everything and pull the safety pins which prevent the bombs from arming prior to takeoff. You wait until you're cleared for takeoff and then light the afterburner and down the runway you go.

As you near the airfield boundary ensure your lights are out and cancel the afterburner. This makes it difficult for someone to shoot a Man Portable Air Defense missile at you. The next hours can be long or exciting depending on the ground situation.

A beautiful sunrise with bright reds and oranges blending into azure blues and darkness is observed over the mountains along the Iraqi border. You usually pause only for a moment to reminisce. Then back to the mission.

You won't talk about the missions you do. Some are busier than others. This morning, you were airborne for 4.6 hours. You come back to Balad Airbase just north of Baghdad and look around for people that may be off the arrival ends of the runway. You land and taxi back to the HAS.

Once you safe your ejection seat and unbuckle everything, you crawl out, stretch and shake the crew chief's hand; "Welcome back," is his usual greeting. "How's the jet?" he asks, trying to gauge how many hours of work he will have to put in to prepare the jet for the next mission.

You debrief the maintenance crews, fill out paperwork and then you go to the intelligence brief, where it takes some time to report everything.

You head back to life support and hang up your flight gear and go to the Cadillac. Then you debrief each other and answer any questions that help prepare you for the next flight. After that, you check tomorrow's flight schedule and get lunch. The chow is good and there is a good variety. You quickly eat to make room for others, then walk back to the checkpoint and into the hooch.

The next five hours are yours to write, read, get a workout or just ponder. What do you think of? Getting home of course.



Greiger thoroughly inspects his jet to make sure nothing was overlooked and that everything is working properly before he begins each mission.

Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Mike Greiger

Veteran's resources to organizations and service groups

Project MOVE Initiative

Project MOVE (Michigan's Opportunities for Veterans Employment), is a part of Targeted Workforce Services Division for the Bureau of Workforce Programs, Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

Because those overseeing the program are veterans, they understand what you will face when you return home. They want to make your return to civilian life as smooth and productive as possible.

The mission of this program is to develop and promote an intensified labor exchange system focused on identifying and recruiting veterans separating to Michigan for employment opportunities matching their qualifications and career interests and simultaneously meet the staffing needs of the business community in the state.

Regardless if you choose to stay for one enlistment or retire from the Armed Forces, you should be aware that the State of Michigan has programs to assist with your transition back to civilian life because of your veteran status.

Please feel free to contact the Project MOVE staff at: 1-800-455-5228.

Veteran job seekers

If you are an eligible veteran looking for a job, register now on the Michigan Talent Bank at <http://www.michworks.org/mtb/pages/seeker/Jobseeker.jsp> and contact your local Veterans' Employment Specialist. Also visit the Veteran Job Fair page at www.michigan.gov/veteranjobfairs. It costs nothing, but the rewards could be substantial.

Burial in a national cemetery

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of the Veterans' Affairs 125 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, government headstone or marker, burial flag, and Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some veterans may also be eligible for burial allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Michigan has two national cemeteries available for veterans only:

Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Mich.

Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich.

Emergency financial assistance

American Red Cross	517-484-7461
Army Emergency Relief	1-866-878-6378
Air Force Aid Society	1-800-769-8951
Coast Guard Mutual Assistance	1-800-881-2462
Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund	
Fallen & Wounded Soldiers Fund	248-417-6984
Michigan National Guard Family Assistance Centers	517-481-8362
Vietnam Veterans of America	1-800-VVA-1316
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society	1-877-272-7337
Social Security Administration online	1-800-772-1213
VFW National Home for Children, Eaton Rapids, MI	1-800-424-8360

"There once was a time in America when nearly every household contained a family member who served to defend freedom. Veterans whose mettle had been tested and who returned home knowing that they were now capable of far more than they had ever dreamed possible. Their very presence was a living, breathing example of the values that contribute not only to our society but also to a successful and fulfilling life." Today's Military
www.todayismilitary.com

Veterans as business owners

Vetbizcentral, also known as the Michigan Veterans Business Resource Center, is a non-profit agency in Flint, Mich. The center serves veterans, National Guard and Reserve members, active duty military and veterans' widows and widowers throughout Michigan and the Midwest. The mission of the center is, "empowering veterans to realize their entrepreneurial dreams, one business at a time."

Director Edward L. Ronders, a Vietnam era veteran, served three years as a Navy journalist. A retired journalist and Michigan State University graduate, Ronders is past commander of American Legion Post 267 in Davison, Mich. He is also a member of the Michigan Joint Veterans Council representing VetBizCentral. For more information you can logon to www.michigan.gov/vetbiz or email edronders@vetbizcentral.com

Vietnam veterans serve in Iraq

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Aaron B. Squires

For many, the war in Vietnam is a distant event only known through retold stories or historical programming offered on cable television. As the Global War on Terrorism fight goes on more than 30 years since the end of the Vietnam War, it's hard to imagine there are still warriors of that era serving today.

Among the ranks of the 1171st Area Support Medical Company, operating near Baghdad, Iraq, are two such seasoned warriors.

Maj. George Kennedy, a doctor with the New Mexico Army National Guard, is currently serving with the 1171st Medical Company. He first volunteered for the Army in the summer of 1966 and deployed to Vietnam in May 1968 with the 5th Special Forces Group until May 1969.

After serving in the Army, Kennedy attended the University of New Mexico and later graduated medical school. Between 1978 and 1981 he served in the Navy as a doctor with the 3rd Marines.

Despite having just survived prostate cancer, Kennedy volunteered to serve once again, inspired by the events of Sept. 11th. He joined the NMANG in Sept. 2006 and served a three month rotation in Iraq with the 1171st Medcom in March 2007.

Sgt 1st Class John Clifford has been a soldier his entire

adult life. He enlisted in the Army in June 1970. After attending training at Fort Knox, Ky. and Fort Leonard Wood, Miss. he reported to Fort Riley, Kan. where he served with Alpha Company, 97th Engineering Battalion.

Clifford left for Vietnam in August 1972 and served nine months with the 210th Engineering Battalion before returning to the United States. Shortly after returning, he left active duty and joined the Michigan Army National Guard.

In 1976, he became a Federal Military Technician and has worked for the MIARNG on a full time basis ever since. As a technician, Clifford supported many units at the Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming, Mich. He worked on various types of vehicles over the years and his experience has led to his promotion as a shop leader.

Clifford served with the 507th Engineering Battalion, 1432nd Engineering Company and 1463rd Transportation Company of the MIARNG before deploying with the 1171st as the Motor Sergeant in June of 2006.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur once said "Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away." For these two men, fading away hasn't been a thought. Neither plans to retire for several years, both opting to serve until the mandatory retirement age.



Maj. George Kennedy and Sgt. 1st Class John Clifford are both Vietnam veterans still serving their country today in Iraq.

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

From January 8, 2007 through July 2, 2007

Air	Pappas, Damian A.	Ignash, Joshua E.	Vanooy, Paul W.	Merkel, Bryan	Fuentes, Kenneth
	Reck, Dana L.	Koras, Christian A.	Vergun, Daniel J.	Smith, James	Helms, Daniel
Col.	Remy, Wayne F.	Lewis, Renee M.	Airman 1st Class	Thomas, Randy	Hicks, Lee
Thomas, Michael T.	Riley, John P.	Liston, James I.	Barnabe, Anthony C.	Sgt. 1st Class	Karnath, Jeremy
Lt. Col.	Talaga, Jeffrey R.	Martus, Mark P.	Becker, Bradlee J.	Bowden, Robert	Klopp, Eric
Nyquist, John D.	Thornton, Bryon L.	Maurer, Andrew J.	Black, Matthew H.	Cooper, Joseph	Laurence, Steven
Maj.	Triestram, Gary S.	Medley, Joshua A.	Burdett, Brian E.	Couturier, James	Leach, Doreen
Hitchcock, Misty A.	Ward, Herbert E.	Miller, Paul W.	Frohlich, Robert D.	Davis, David	Lee, Charles
Cpt.	Ward, Brian K.	Moore, Bryce R.	Gardner, Cory J.	Dekraker, Willard	Mazur, James
Black, Kelly W.	Wiles, Frederick J.	Nye, Blaine A.	Gilbert, Nicky L.	Jody, Matthew	Mikaelsen, Jesse
Hopp, Bernice K.	Technical Sgt.	Nye, Blaine A.	Hoppenrath, Nicky L.	Kirkland, Rodney	Milner, Jeffrey
1st Lt.	Andrews, Justin M.	Overton, Russell R.	Lovelace, Elliott D.	Larocque, Caroline	Neetz, Larry
Gilkerson, Jamison M.	Baker, Matthew J.	Perkins, Darryl M.	Sines, Ciara A.	Mcmichael, Michelle	Nitschke, Gabriel
Laske, James W.	Calbaugh, Sonia L.	Richards, Jozzlyn M.	Airman	Remyszewski, David	Oliver, Matthew
Miller, Michelle L.	Clark, Greg L.	Rynbrandt, Kevin M.	Colden, Elisabeth T.	Samsel, Stephan	Ramer, Andrew
Modock, Shaun P.	Depue, Matt R.	Sharp, Katrina M.		Tramel, Timothy	Ray, Gary
Monarch, Matthew J.	Hanet, Robert P.	Smith, Michael A.	Army	Valicenti, James	Reist, Arthur
Platz, Christopher J.	Harris, Morris B.	Staniek, Karen M.		Vanwieren, Michael	Rivard, Andrew
Wilson, Paul W.	Hiaeshutter, Jason M.	Striplin, Rex A.		Staff Sgt.	Siebert, Bernard
2nd Lt.	Holtyn, Matthew J.	Varghese, Shibu		Acker, Charles	Smith, Larry
Devries, Brett A.	Kershner, Robert W.	Veldkamp, Dustin J.	Col.	Anderson, Tamara	Spears, James
Turner, Monique S.	Kovarik, Daniel A.	Veldman, Rebecca L.	Bartolacci, James	Baker, Jessica	Summers, Jennifer
Warn, Craig S.	Lorenz, Michael R.	Williams, Kevin M.	Dalman, Samuel	Bansemmer, Ryan	Syacsure, Dennis
Chief Master Sgt.	Medaugh, Kyle W.	Williams, Jack T.	Grossman, Derek	Bentz, Jonnie	Tinkham, Brandon
Barriger, Dennis J.	Merewether, Jeffery R.	Witt, Adam A.	Owens, Phillip	Brukardt, Rebecca	Villa, Roberto
Boykins, Anthony	Merewether, Jeffrey R.	Senior Airman	Stokes, James	Buzzard, Robert	Walker, David
Lick, Dwain L.	Peterson, Vincent M.	Bowles, Eric R.	Wilkins, Robert	Deforge, Lee	Warmbein, Barrett
Schulte, Michael J.	Roman, Steven J.	Brodie, Stephanie M.	Lt. Col.	Duong, Maloth	Warner, Benjamin
Stressman, Richard E.	Sellers, Steven C.	Brun, Henry F.	Harris, Shawn	Fenton, Samuel	Wilson, Barry
Senior Master Sgt.	Todd, Damon K.	Burke, Jared P.	Jones, Mary	Flores, Frank	Ziehmer, Ronald
Altheide, Douglas E.	Vanrhee, Karla J.	Doyle, Brendan P.	Scheidler, Paul	Hart, Douglas	Spc.
Detoma, Stephen Y.	Wade, James L.	Doyle, Brendan P.	Maj.	Kennedy, Gregory	Aber, Anthony
Gardner, Daniel W.	White, Andrew C.	Grace, William I.	Jennette, James	Lonsbery, Michael	Adkins, Ellissatina
Mazur, Jeffery T.	Whitt, Glenn D.	Hill, John P.	Leblanc, Donald	Mcmorris, Mark	Agostini, Domenico
Owens, John N.	Williams, John W.	Hinkle, David M.	Saren, Jeffrey	Miller, Kim	Aiello, Frank
Powell, Douglas K.	Wilson, John M.	Homrich, Nicholas A.	Spinelli, Stephen	Nemeth, Leonard	Ambrose, Timothy
Rottman, Raymond E.	Staff Sgt.	Kiewiet, James A.	Cpt.	Dawson, Steven	Angus, Donald
Wilson, Michael R.	Barker, Erika A.	Kimball, Stephanie L.	Steves, David	Whitmoyer, Corrina	Arrell, Jason
Master Sgt.	Barnhorst, Christopher A.	Kurowicki, Christopher G.		1st Lt.	Arrington, Damiso
Browand, Candis R.	Busick, Joshua A.	Licari, Elizabeth T.		Randall, Marshall	Ashley, Patrick
Cummings, Donald L.	Carrick, Bradley W.	Maharg, Christopher J.		2nd Lt.	Barton, Caleb
Dauterman, William T.	Cleaver, Robin W.	Mcclure, Andrew L.		Przybyla, Anthony	Bates, Gabriel
Davis, Kevin F.	Crisman, Renee M.	Newton, William A.		Warrant Officer	Becker, Mitchell
Delano, Stephen H.	Cuttle, Scott D.	Phairas, Stacy J.		Bosley, Kerri	Benchley, Brandon
Doty, Aaron G.	Darling, David H.	Roof, Christopher P.		Chelilim, Kibeet	Bennett, Aaron
Emmons, Rod A.	Dykema, Paul N.	Scalici, Michael P.		Sgt. Maj.	Betz, Adam
Garland, Brian J.	Gillette, Darrick B.	Sonefeld, Robert W.		Jesse, John	Boucher, Bradley
Gerst, James A.	Gillette, Darrick B.	Sorensen, Peter R.		Master Sgt.	Bowman, Luke
Harris, Yvette L.	Hall, Marc J.	Stoner, James C.		Baldwin, Ronald	Bozarth, Bret
Lonabarger, James R.	Harkness, Erika A.	Stritzinger, Ryan J.		Gillham, Dolores	Bramlett, Kyle
Melnyczenko, Kerry L.	Harris, Roderick R.	Tutt, Louis M.		Houston, Richard	
Moessinger, David W.	Harris, Brian A.	Tutt, Louis M.			
Neal, Brett M.	Hutchins, Kevin D.	Vanmeekeren, Todd J.			

Promotions continued

Brolsma, Matthew	Pruden, Cody	Gasperich, Steven	Raymond, Levi	Edler, Michael	Romero, Mario
Bryant, Isaiah	Reynolds, Craig	George, Daniel	Roberts, Kyle	Fox, Brian	Russell, Dustin
Bryant, Jeremiah	Reynolds, Ryan	Goslee, Charles	Ross, Carrie	Franklin, Carlos	Santillan, Eduardo
Burder, Roger	Richter, Randy	Grebe, Christopher	Ross, Robert	Frato, Cortney	Seageren, Robert
Burgess, Amber	Saad, Jalil	Groves, Victoria	Ruebelmann, Steven	French, Joshua	Sherer, Timothy
Carlson, Crystal	Saechao, Jonathan	Gygi, Fredric	Ruff, Thomas	Gano, Matthew	Smith, Jesse
Chartrand, Mark	Schank, Shawn	Hardy, Mark	Schaut, Robert	Garris, Robert	Smith, Michael
Clark, Dwight	Schwab, Daniel	Harris, Amy	Schlack, Gary	Geerlings, Jamie	Smith, Michael
Clough, Trevor	Schwartz, Mary	Henry, Andrew	Scott, Casey	Gilbert, Travis	Spring, Brandon
Cooper, Thomas	Seery, David	Herring, Kyle	Smith, Jacqueline	Gustafson, Christopher	Stewart, James
David, Eric	Shepard, Daniel	Hills, Matthew	Smuts, Luke	Hoffman, Keith	Talbot, Michael
Davis, Carl	Signora, Adam	Houghtaling, Andy	Spiekerman, Daniel	Holtz, Kevin	Theoret, Ryan
Dehaan, Ricky	Smaltz, Jonathan	Hutchinson, Eric	Steinman, Joshua	Hunt, David	Thomas, Jason
Dunn, Andrew	Smith, Christopher	Johnson, Bobby	Stoner, Jonathan	Irvine, Thomas	Thompson, Curtis
Dykstra, Joshua	Spelman, Joseph	Johnson, Travis	Stubbins, Skye	Johnson, Steven	Turk, Durrell
Elmassry, Mohamed	Stander, Joshua	Kalm, Jordan	Thompson, Joshua	Jones, Brandon	Waldorf, Jacob
Finger, Bryce	Stegall, Kevin	Keener, Thomas	Thorington, Cody	Keller, Mitchell	Warrens, Shanice
Fruchey, Justin	Struble, Kenneth	Khan, Muzimal	Uhl, Daniel	Kies, Joshua	Wier, Brent
Fruge, Matthew	Stucky, Alex	Kill, Lucas	Vanmaldeghem, Steven	King, Dustin	Wilberding, Ian
Galatian, Katie	Tavian, Devyn	Klepac, Thomas	Vanotteren, Michael	Kliemann, Elyse	Wilhoite, Keith
Gargin, Paul	Trent, James	Lamb, Calvin	Vasquez, Ernesto	Klimczyk, Scott	Wilson, Cory
Haner, Joshua	Trombley, Joel	Lavender, Randall	Walatkiewicz, Jonathan	Klutts, Christopher	Wilson, Matthew
Hansen, Jenna	Ulsh, William	Leclair, Melissa	Weatherspoon, Wendell	Kujat, Derek	Wilt, Jay
Hansen, Joshua	Walkington, Shawn	Levesque, Trevor	Wodarek, Andrew	Lameira, Brenton	Wojcik, Christopher
Harrington, Jeffrey	Watts, Christopher	Lintemuth, Roman	Worthing, Kevin	Lavery, Daniel	Wyatt, Arthur
Herman, Joshua	Wetmore, Dustin	Longaker, Ashley	Yearovich, Andrea	Love, Darrell	Zihlman, Eric
Heyder, Korrey	Woodcock, Jason	Lonk, Jeffery	Zahara, Ashley	Macdonald, Andrew	
Higgins, Shane	Wright, Logan	Marzolf, Nathan	Zimmer, Jack	Maddox, Barry	
Janulis, Paul	Pfc.	Mason, Amy	Pvt. 2	Majik, Jamie	
Johnston, Thomas	Alexander, Justin	Maycroft, Andrew	Aranda, Christopher	Major, Joshua	
Kemp, Michael	Baskin, Scott	Mccaskey, Aaron	Axe, Stanley	Maue, Joshua	
Kieft, Carolyn	Beavervogel, Eric	Mcdonald, David	Ayala, Alexander	Maurice, Crystal	
King, Clayton	Bengal, Douglas	Merrifield, Todd	Beard, Larissa	Mcclelland, Brad	
Lacasse, James	Berthelsen, Alyssa	Michels, Mark	Bebow, Chase	Molin, Chase	
Larson, Thomas	Brahmer, Benjamin	Mireles, Jeremiah	Berry, Daniel	Moncada, Jannelle	
Laurie, Jason	Brooks, Nathan	Mobarak, Michael	Bitely, Jessica	Moore, Michael	
Lawrence, Jamie	Buchanan, Alexis	Moore, Beth	Blodgett, Jenny	Moore, Thomas	
Little, Nathaniel	Clapp, Temple	Moore, Ryan	Boldt, Oren	Myers, Cory	
Maniaci, Nickolas	Clark, Matthew	Morehouse, Michael	Bostic, Tonika	Neigerbickham, Christopher	
Mata, Angelica	Clemons, Kera	Morris, Nicholas	Boulet, Samuel	Oconnor, Jared	
Mcbee, Adam	Coffell, Amy	Morsi, Joseph	Call, Nelson	Osborn, Kyle	
Molyneux, Joshua	Cohen, Eric	Neal, Lindburgh	Cathey, Ashley	Parker, Jonathan	
Moore, Mandy	Colson, Alvin	Nichols, Graham	Chapman, Gerald	Pendell, Daniel	
Nalevayko, Wayne	Cummings, Andrew	Odea, Sherry	Charles, Travis	Pepper, Jesse	
Ohmart, James	Curtiss, Johnathan	Olsen, Ryan	Church, Jermyn	Prater, David	
Peterson, Claressa	Deemer, Evan	Ostyn, Roscoe	Craig, Roger	Quickley, Gerry	
Phillips, Marcus	Durnan, Nicholas	Packer, Brett	Danos, Marci	Rawlings, David	
Picard, Matthew	Dykstra, Christopher	Pfeiffer, Ryan	Davey, Jacob	Reed, Michael	
Pitts, Christopher	Fradette, Colette	Pirlot, Michael	Dexter, Nicholas	Rice, Jason	
Powell, Clark	Garner, Lydia	Pleaugh, Francis	Downing, Darnell		

Pontiac Armory addition dedicated to fallen MIARNG hero

Photo by Sgt. Gabriel Morse



Gathered around the mural to be displayed at the Pontiac Armory is, (from left to right), Timothy Frank (father), Nichole Frank (sister-in-law), Tim Frank Jr. (brother), and Linda Frank (mother), the family of Sgt. Craig S. Frank. On July, 9, 2006, Michigan National Guard officials and U.S. Representative Joseph Knollenberg dedicated a new addition of the Pontiac Armory in Sgt. Frank's honor.

Sgt. Frank, a former member of the 1775th Military Police Company, was killed in action on July, 14, 2004, while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the dedication the family accepted a Global War on Terror ribbon, federal and state overseas service ribbons, the Distinguished Service Medal, and a Combat Action badge in honor of Sgt. Frank.

The Michigan National Guard State Public Affairs Office would like to extend "Best wishes" and "Godspeed" to their deployed staff members:

1st Lt. Corissa Barton, *Wolverine Guard* editor

Cpt. Evalynn Chapp, web content manager/historian

Sgt. 1st Class James Downen, state photographer

Michigan Army National Guard Fallen Heroes



Sgt. Matthew R. Soper
1461st Transportation Company

Sgt. Matthew Soper, 25, of Jackson, Mich., died Jun. 6 in Bayji, Iraq of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated destroying his gun truck. Soper was assigned to the 1461st Transportation Company, Jackson, Mich.

Soper previously deployed to Iraq in March 2004 to February 2005 with the 1462nd Transportation Company. He is survived by parents, Warner and Shirley Soper of Howell, Mich.



Sgt. Thomas G. Wright
46th Military Police Company, 210th Military Police Battalion

Sgt. Thomas G. Wright, 38, of Holly, Mich., died May 14 en route to Landstuhl, Germany, from an illness while serving in Balad, Iraq. Wright was assigned to the 46th Military Police Company, 210th Military Police Battalion, Kingsford, Mich..

Wright is survived by his wife, Kate, daughter Alexis, 5, his parents, Gary and Carol Wright and a younger brother, Paul, of Holly, Mich.

Taps

Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Everett E. Bailey, 84, Jan. 20, 2007
Maj. Gordon W. Briggs (Ret), 84, May 11, 2007
Staff Sgt. Dennis P. Brown (Ret), 71, May 9, 2007
Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret) Ernest M. Cabule Jr., 82, Apr. 7, 2007
Pfc. Andrew M. Castillio, 31, Jun. 16, 2007
Master Sgt. (Ret) Ralph E. Cooley, 77, May 25, 2007
Sgt. 1st Class (Ret) Terry A. Courtier Sr., 54, Jun. 10, 2007
Col. (Ret) Gerald J. Dougher, 83, Apr. 9, 2007
Platoon Sgt. (Ret) Richard C. Engstrom, 75, Mar. 9, 2007
Lt. Col (Ret) Walter D. Follette, 90, Dec. 25, 2006
Lt. Col (Ret) James B. Garner, 75, Apr. 6, 2007
Lt. Col (Ret) Sylvin J. Gaynor, 87, Jan. 26, 2007
Master Sgt. (Ret) Wallace G. Gray, 74, Dec. 25, 2006
Sgt 1st Class Gerald C. Gurnsey, 66, Apr. 14, 2007
Sgt 1st Class (Ret) Frederick S. Haas, 65, Mar. 31, 2007
Sgt. (Ret) Neil A. Hanchett, 49, Jan. 20, 2007
Sgt. (Ret) Marvin G. Hankins, 66, Apr. 6, 2007
Sgt. (Ret) Brenda D. Harris, 58, May 19, 2007
Sgt. (Ret) Richard J. Hengartner, 42, Apr. 21, 2007
Sgt. 1st Class (Ret) Robert N. Hofman, 70, May 20, 2007
Col. (Ret) Dennis D. Hull, 56, Apr. 8, 2007
Sgt. (Ret) Gary A. Johnson, 59, Apr. 2, 2007

Sgt. Edwin N. Johnson, 54, Apr. 22, 2007
Master Sgt. (Ret) Thomas J. Karkau, 78, Mar. 4, 2007
Senior Airman Holly L. Klitch, 41, Jun. 4, 2007
Master Sgt. (Ret) Kenneth W. Kobel, 65, Mar. 21, 2007
Col. (Ret) Leo Romuald Kondrich, 87, Feb. 1, 2007
Staff Sgt. (Ret) Donald E. Kraus, 70, May 31, 2007
Lt. Col. (Ret) Albert R. Krider Jr., 96, Jan. 30, 2007
Col. (Ret) Stephen J. Kuchta Jr., 77, Feb. 9, 2007
Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret) Robert D. LeMay, 77, May 8, 2007
Master Sgt. (Ret) Norma D. Martin, 54, Feb. 6, 2007
Maj. (Ret) Norman J. Nett, 83, Jan. 7, 2007
Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret) Richard J. Oja, 64, Jan. 14, 2007
Master Sgt. (Ret) Claude E. Oxley, 63, May 16, 2007
Col. (Ret) James F. Rosbolt, 73, Jun. 20, 2007
Sgt. (Ret) Ronald A. Schofield Jr., 64, Apr. 19, 2007
Master Sgt. (Ret) Dale E. Shockley, 60, Jun. 14, 2007
Platoon Sgt. (Ret) Charles R. Stone, 69, Feb. 21, 2007
Sgt. 1st Class (Ret) Robert H. Sutton, 59, Apr. 15, 2007
Lt. Col. (Ret) Clement C. Vanwagoner, 93, May 23, 2007
Lt. Col. (Ret) Nelson L. Wood, 86, Jan. 5, 2007
Chief Warrant Officer 4 (Ret) Robert W. Yeoman, 72, Jun. 16, 2007



Cpt. David Howell from Headquarters, Headquarters Company 1st Battalion 125th Infantry (Infantry Brigade Combat Team) observes Latvian soldiers as they conduct MEDEVAC training during Operation Summer Shield IV in Latvia. Read this story in the next issue of The Wolverine Guard.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Michigan Army and Air National Guard
3411 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Lansing, Michigan 48906

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING MI
PERMIT #1096